

The Los Alamos National Laboratory Commitment

- Environment, Safety, and Health -

We affirm to all our stakeholders, including our workforce, customers, and the public...

that we will conduct our operations with respect and care for their personal safety and health and for the environment. Safety, health and environmental protection will be an integral part of all our activities. We will perform all work safely and will strive to eliminate injuries, reduce adverse environmental and health impacts, protect property, proactively conform to applicable laws and regulations, conserve natural resources, and respond to the public's expectations for safety and for protection of the environment. We will assess the environmental impact of each facility we propose to construct and will design, build, operate and maintain all our facilities so they are safe and environmentally sound. We will be prepared for emergencies and will provide leadership to assist our local communities to improve their emergency preparedness. Materials will be reused and recycled to minimize the need for treatment or disposal. When waste is generated, it will be handled and disposed of safely and responsibly. We will drive toward monitoring emissions and reducing them to as low as reasonably achievable, giving priority to those that may present the greatest potential risk to health or the environment. Where past practices have created conditions that require correction, we will responsibly correct them. We will manage our land to enhance habitats for wildlife. We will deploy our resources to meet this environmental, safety, and health (ES&H) Commitment and will do so in a manner that strengthens our institution. We will continuously assess and improve our practices at the institutional, facility, and activity levels in light of advances in technology and new understandings in ES&H science. We will build alliances with policy makers, businesses and advocacy groups to develop sound policies, regulations and practices for improving ES&H. We will make consistent, measurable progress in implementing this total ES&H Commitment throughout all our present and future operations.

Workforce Responsibility and Accountability

Line management is responsible for the protection of the workers, the public, and the environment. Everyone is responsible for the safe conduct of their activities. The Laboratory Leadership Council, including the Lab Director, shall stay informed about pertinent ES&H issues and ensure that policies are in place and actions taken to achieve the Lab's ES&H Commitment. Compliance with this Commitment, including applicable laws and regulations and established institutional, facility and activity requirements, is the responsibility of every employee and contractor and a condition of their employment or contract. All managers are responsible for educating, motivating, and enabling their workers to understand and comply with this Commitment and for involving them in establishing, promoting, improving, and achieving the appropriate institutional and facility- and activity-specific requirements. All managers are also responsible, through personal example and the involvement of all their workers, for creating a climate in which everyone is dedicated to meeting this Commitment.

Clear Roles, Responsibilities, and Accountability

We will establish and maintain clear and unambiguous lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability at all organizational levels throughout the Laboratory to ensure protection of the workers, the public, and the environment.

Competence Commensurate with Responsibilities

We will ensure that all personnel possess the experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities that are necessary to discharge their responsibilities. ES&H support services will be provided at the activity, facility, and institutional levels, as needed, to assist personnel.

Balanced Priorities

We will effectively allocate resources to address ES&H, programmatic and operational considerations. Protecting the workers, the public, and the environment will be paramount whenever activities are planned and performed.

Identification of ES&H Standards and Requirements

Before specific work is performed, we will evaluate the associated hazards and establish an agreed-upon set of standards and requirements that, if properly implemented, will provide adequate protection to the workers, the public, and the environment.

Hazard Controls Tailored to Work Being Performed

Before specific work is performed, we will tailor engineering and administrative controls to prevent and mitigate the hazards associated with the work. The level of control will be commensurate with the type of work and the level of hazard.

Work Authorization

Before specific work is performed, we will establish an agreed-upon set of conditions and requirements that must be satisfied. The type of agreement and the agreement parties will be determined on the basis of the type of work and the level of hazard.

(signed on 11/27/96)

Siegfried S. Hecker, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory

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